(d) what is the number of microfilms reading machines which are available there and whether all of them are in working order; and

(e) whether Government propose to appoint a committee on the functioning of the National Archives of India, if not, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE (SMT. SUSHILA ROHATGI): (a) and (b) It is not a fact that research scholars are dissatisfied with the facilities available in the National Archives of India. However, seven written complaints were received in this regard during the last three years.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Four microfilm readers are available and all of them are in working order.

(e) No, Sir, as there is no need for appointing such a Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Mr. Gopalsamy.

SHRI V. GOPALSAMY: Sir, I am not in a position to put supplementaries on the same ground.

*332. [*The questioner (Shri Syed Ahmed Hashmi) was absent. For answer* vide *col.* 36-37 infra]

Interchangeable Rakes

*333. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI:
SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA:†

Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision regarding reduction in the 'terminal lie-over' period of coaches by making the train rakes inter-changeable and by reducing their varieties;

(b) how many varieties of train rakes each zone had in 1977-78, 1982-83 and at present; and

(c) what is the target set for the year 1985-86 to minimise infructuous detention of coaches at terminals?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Railway have different types of rakes ranging from short branch line rakes of two coaches to 21 coach rakes hauled by two diesel engines and the total number of such rakes keeps on changing normally every 6 months with change of Time Table.

(c) Reducing detention of coaches at terminals to the minimum is the objective given to the Railways though no specific target has been set for each terminal and each rake for the year 1985-86 as trains have to leave at a time most suitable to the passengers.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Yes, Mr. Madhavrao Scindia.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I am afraid, we are going at a superfast speed.

MR. CHAIRMAN: We want the trains to be as fast as we are going.

SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA: I wish, at the superfast speed I did not end up with an accident.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS

Replacement of Steam Engines with Electric or Diesel Engines

*334. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

†The question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Shri Shanker Sinh Vaghela.